

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



NEW RIVER SAMPLING IN CALEXICO, CA.



California Department of Health Services

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BACKGROUND

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is part of the California Health and Human Services Agency. The CDHS is one of the largest departments in State government, with over 5,000 employees working in its Sacramento headquarters and over 60 field offices throughout the State.

As part of its mandate, the CDHS administers a broad range of public and clinical health programs that provide health care services to Californians. The mission of the CDHS is to protect and improve the health of all Californians.

The CDHS values:

- Its clients and the beneficiaries of the service it provides;
- Its employees and investment in their growth and training;
- Leadership and excellence in the field of public health and medical care services.
- Commitment to public service;
- Diversity, equality of opportunity, and cultural competency as essential parts of everything that we do;
- Prevention and access as the cornerstones of maintaining and enhancing health;
- Its partners and collaborative relationships in improving the health of all Californians;
- Good science and analysis, which are critical to establishing and implementing effective policies and programs; and
- The statutes, laws and regulations that establish its functions.

In the administration of its programs, the CDHS frequently partners with other state departments, state agencies, hospitals, clinics, health plans, local health jurisdictions and community-based organizations. Without these partnerships, the CDHS would be unable to meet its mission in a state as vast as California. The CDHS recognizes the integral role of its partners in delivering high-quality programs and protecting the health of the public. It has made it a priority to foster excellent working relationships by promoting open communication, collaboration, problem solving, and strong partnerships.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER PROJECTS

As mentioned above, the CDHS offers a wide range of programs to assist California communities and its residents. For the purposes of this report, below is a brief summary of CDHS programs available to develop and implement water projects. For additional information regarding other programs available please visit the CDHS website at www.dhs.ca.gov.

Proposition 50

During the November 2002 general election, California voters passed Proposition 50, The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, Water Code Section 79400, et seq. In August 2003, Assembly Bill 1747 was signed into law and took effect immediately, clarifying some of the Proposition 50 requirements.

CDHS is responsible for implementing Chapter 3 (Water Security) and Chapter 4 (Safe Drinking Water), and Sections (b) and (c) of Chapter 6, which address treatment technology. CDHS' Prop 50 funding process will follow a timetable, which is currently being drafted. Additionally, CDHS is developing ranking criteria for projects for each funding category. For the most updated information regarding the proposed timetable and ranking criteria including eligibility requirements visit CDHS' Proposition 50

website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/Prop50/default.htm. For additional information regarding Proposition 50 programs, you may also contact Gary Yamamoto, DHS' Drinking Water Technical Programs Branch, at 916-449-5647.

Proposition 50, Chapter 3: Water Security (\$50 million)

Provides funds to protect state, local and regional drinking water systems from terrorist attack or deliberate acts of destruction or degradation. These funds may be used for monitoring and early warning systems, fencing, protective structures, contamination treatment facilities, emergency interconnections, communications systems, and other projects designed to prevent damage to water treatment, distribution, and supply facilities, to prevent disruption of drinking water deliveries, and to protect drinking water supplies from intentional contamination.

Proposition 50, Chapter 4: Safe Drinking Water (\$435 million)

Provides assistance in meeting safe drinking water standards. Chapter 4 includes funding for the following:

Water Code §79530(a)(1)-(a)(5) provides approximately \$70 million for five new grant programs:

- **Grant Program 1:** Grants to small community water systems (<1,000 service connections or <3,300 persons) to upgrade monitoring, treatment, or distribution infrastructure.
- **Grant Program 2:** Grants to finance development and demonstration of new treatment and related facilities for water contaminant removal and treatment.
- **Grant Program 3:** Grants for community water system water quality monitoring facilities and equipment.
- **Grant Program 4:** Grants for drinking water source protection.
- **Grant Program 5:** Grants for treatment facilities necessary to meet disinfectant by-product safe drinking water standards.

Water Code §79530(a)(6) provides approximately \$90 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The DWSRF is an established program and is administered separately from the new grant programs addressed by the ranking criteria proposed for Proposition 50. This program is described below.

Water Code §79530(b) provides approximately \$260 million to Southern California projects to address the Colorado River 4.4 million acre-feet (MAF) requirement.

Assembly Bill 1747 requires that priority be given to projects that reduce public and environmental exposure to contaminants that pose the most significant health risks, and that will bring water systems into compliance with safe drinking water standards (maximum contaminant levels, MCLs). These include, but are not limited to, projects that address public exposure to contaminants for which safe drinking water standards have been established including arsenic, disinfection byproducts and uranium. Projects to address emerging contaminants, including perchlorate, chromium-6, and endocrine disrupters shall also be given priority.

Proposition 50, Chapter 6: Contaminant Removal Technologies (\$50 million)

Proposition 50's Chapter 6 projects relate to contaminant and salt removal technologies.

CDHS' involvement with Chapter 6 will focus on funding that addresses pilot and demonstration projects for certain contaminants (Section b, listed below), and for projects related to ultraviolet (UV) and ozone treatment. Salt removal technologies in Chapter 6 will be handled by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Chapter 6, Section (b) provides funding for pilot and demonstration projects for treatment or removal technology for the following categories of contaminants:

- Petroleum products, such as MTBE and BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene)
- N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)
- Perchlorate
- Radionuclides, such as radon, uranium, and radium
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Heavy metals, such as arsenic, mercury, and chromium
- Pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupters

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program

Provides low interest loans and grants to assist public water systems in achieving or maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The DWSRF Program provides funding to correct public water systems deficiencies based upon a prioritized funding system. The funding system utilizes a comprehensive multi-year Project Priority List, whereby certain projects receive higher funding priority than other eligible public water system projects. Higher priority projects include:

- Public water systems projects addressing public health risk problems;
- Public water systems projects needed to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act; and
- Projects assisting public water systems most in need on a per household affordability basis.

For additional information regarding the DWSRF Program, you may visit www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/SRF/SRFindex.htm or contact Robin Hook, DWSRF Program Branch, at 916-449-5624.

Proposition 13 – The Water Bond

On March 7, 2000 California voters passed a water bond, "Proposition 13." DHS was designated to receive \$70 million from the sale of general obligation bonds approved in the ballot measure:

- \$68 million to be used as the state match to access ~\$340 million in federal capitalization grant funds for Public Water Systems infrastructure improvements during the subsequent four years, and
- \$2 million to be used to provide technical assistance to Public Water Systems including disadvantaged communities.

More information on Proposition 13 can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources (see appropriate sections within this report).